IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 9-11, 16, 21, and 22 as shown in clean form below:[2]

sub C7

1. (Amended) A multi-beam scanning device comprising:

a laser diode array having at least three light emitting points arranged in a package at an equal interval and configured to emit respective laser beams that form corresponding laser beam spots on a recording medium at a minimum recording interval, wherein

the laser beams from the at least three light emitting points scan the recording medium in a main scanning direction while being at least one of on and off so as to form a light image having the minimum recording interval in the recording medium,

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the equal interval is not greater than the minimum recording interval, and

the at least three light emitting points are arranged such that the corresponding laser beams spots on the recording medium are arranged substantially in a line in a direction orthogonal to the main scanning direction.

6. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a recording medium; and

a laser diode array having at least three light emitting points arranged in a package at an equal interval and configured to emit respective laser beams that form corresponding laser beam spots on the recording medium at a minimum recording interval, wherein

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the laser beams from the at least three light emitting points scan the recording medium in a main scanning direction while being at least one of on and off so as to form a light image having the minimum recording interval on the recording medium,

the equal interval is not greater than the minimum recording interval, and

[2]A marked-up copy of the amendments to the claims is attached hereto.

the at least three light emitting points are arranged such that the corresponding laser beam spots on the recording medium are arranged substantially in a line in a direction orthogonal to the main scanning direction.

9. (Amended) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein a variation in position of the lower beam spots configured to be arranged substantially in a line is not greater than 21.17 μm.

10. (Amended) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the equal interval is not greater than 14 μm.

11. (Amended) A multi-beam scanning device comprising:

a laser emitting means for emitting laser beams, comprising at least three light emitting points arranged in a package at an equal interval and configured to emit the at least three laser beams to form corresponding laser beam spots on a recording medium at a minimum recording interval,

wherein the laser beams from the at least three light emitting points scan the recording medium in a main scanning direction while being at least one of on and off so as to form a light image having the minimum recording interval on the recording medium,

the equal interval is not greater than the minimum recording interval, and

the at least three light emitting points are arranged such that the corresponding laser beam spots on the recording medium are arranged substantially in a line in a direction orthogonal to the main scanning direction.

16. (Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

means for recording data thereon; and

means for emitting laser beams, comprising at least three light emitting points arranged in a package at an equal interval and for emitting laser beams to form corresponding laser beam spots on the means for recording at a minimum recording interval,

wherein the laser beams scan the means for recording in a main scanning direction while being at least one of on and off so as to form a light image having the minimum recording interval on the means for recording,

the equal interval is not greater than the minimum recording interval, and

the at least three light emitting points are arranged such that the corresponding laser beam spots on the means for recording are arranged substantially in a line in a direction orthogonal to the main scanning direction.

21. (Amended) A multi-beam scanning device comprising:

a light beam emitting array comprising three or more light emitting elements, which are arranged at predetermined locations and which emit respective laser beams to form corresponding laser beam spots on a recording medium at a minimum recording interval,

wherein the three or more laser beams scan the recording medium in a main scanning direction while being put on or off to form a light image having the minimum recording interval on the recording medium,

wherein the three or more light emitting elements are arranged such that the corresponding laser beam spots on the recording medium are arranged substantially in a line in a direction orthogonal to the main scanning direction.

22. (Amended) The multi-beam scanning device according to Claim 21, wherein the predetermined locations of the three or more light emitting elements are such that the elements are arranged at an equal interval and the equal interval is not greater than the minimum recording interval, and

wherein the equal interval is Pi and Pi is set to fulfill the following equation:

$$Pi = (fco/fcy) \cdot (Pi'/\beta s),$$

wherein fco is the focal length of a light collecting element [(5)], which collects the light emitted from the light beam emitting array,

fcy is the focal length of a light beam shaping element, said light beam shaping element shaping the light beam passing through the light collecting element before the light beam is reflected by a light beam deflecting element, said light beam deflecting element deflects the light beams for scanning the recording medium,

wherein βs is the lateral direction magnification in the sub-scanning direction, and

wherein Pi′ is the minimum recording interval.